PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Timothy P. O'Hagan, et al.

Filed: August 20, 2001

Title: PORTABLE DATA COLLECTION NETWORK WITH TELEPHONE AND VOICE MAIL CAPABILITY

Docket No.: TELNP0139USB

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Preliminary to examination, please amend the above-referenced application as follows (a marked copy of all amendments appears in Appendix A attached hereto).

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 5 as follows.

This application is a divisional application of copending Application Serial No. 08/867,076, filed June 2, 1997, incorporated herein by reference in its entirety, and this application is a continuation-in-part of copending application Serial No. 08/493,480, filed

June 21, 1995, which is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 08/332,592, filed October 31, 1994, and application Serial No. 08/280,489, filed July 26, 1994.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-7 and 17-18.

Please amend claim 23 and as follows and add claims 26-39.

23. (amended) A portable data collection network, comprising:

a hardwired backbone network;

a plurality of access points coupled to the backbone network;

a plurality of portable data terminals, each of the plurality of portable data terminals comprising:

input means for inputting data;

an RF transceiver for communicating with at least one device coupled to the backbone network via at least one of the plurality of access points;

a speaker; and

a control circuit, operatively coupled to the input means, the RF transceiver, and the speaker, for selectively enabling the RF transceiver to transmit data based on data input via the input means and to convert voice data received by the RF transceiver into a voice signal which is output through the speaker.

26. (new) The portable data collection network of claim 23, wherein the RF transceiver is configured to communicate information in packets in accordance with a carrier sense multiple access (CSMA) protocol.

27. (new) The portable data collection network of claim 23, wherein the input means is a keypad.

28. (new) The portable data collection network of claim 23, wherein the input means is a barcode reader for inputting barcode information.

29. (new) The portable data collection network of claim 23, wherein the control circuit comprises a memory for storing voice data received via the RF transceiver.

30. (new) The portable data collection network of claim 29, wherein the memory stores voice data which is acquired as multiple voice messages.

31. (new) The portable data collection network of claim 30, further comprising a display for displaying indicia of the multiple voice messages, and means for permitting an operator to select at least one of the multiple voice messages to be output through the speaker based on the displayed indicia.

32. (new) The portable data collection network of claim 23, wherein each of the portable data terminals further comprises a microphone, and wherein the control circuit is operatively coupled to the microphone to convert a voice signal output from the microphone to outgoing voice data which is transmitted by the RF transceiver.

33. (new) The portable data collection network of claim 23, wherein a voice data storage device coupled to the backbone network initially stores the voice data intended for one of the portable data terminals, and each portable data terminal periodically polls the voice data storage device in order to prompt the voice data storage device to transmit the voice data to the portable data terminal.

34. (new) The portable data collection network of claim 33, wherein the voice data storage device is a host computer coupled to the backbone network.

35. (new) The portable data collection network of claim 23, wherein voice data from a first of the portable data terminals is transmitted to a second of the portable data terminals via the backbone network.

36. (new) The portable data collection network of claim 35, wherein the voice data from the first of the portable data terminals is transmitted to a first of the access points and the second of the portable data terminals receives the voice data transmitted by the first of the portable data terminals via a second of the access points.

37. (new) The portable data collection network of claim 23, wherein the portable data collection network including the backbone network, the plurality of access points and the plurality of portable data terminals are disposed within a facility and facilitate communication among persons remotely located within the facility.

38. (new) The portable data collection network of claim 23, wherein the RF transceiver facilitates roaming of the portable data terminal among the plurality of access points.

39. (new) The portable data collection network of claim 23, wherein a first of the portable data terminals and a second of the data terminals communicate voice data directly with each other.

REMARKS

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 18-0988, our Order No. TELNP0139USB.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT (TELNP0139USB)

Applicant: Timothy P. O'Hagan, et al.

Filed: August 20, 2001

Title: PORTABLE DATA COLLECTION NETWORK WITH TELEPHONE AND VOICE MAIL CAPABILITY

Docket No.: TELNP0139USB

A marked version of the amended paragraph and claims appears below (deletions bracketed and struck through and additions underlined):

This application is a divisional application of copending Application Serial No. 08/867,076, filed June 2, 1997, incorporated herein by reference in its entirety, and this application is a continuation-in-part of copending application Serial No. 08/493,480, filed June 21, 1995, which is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 08/332,592, filed October 31, 1994, and application Serial No. 08/280,489, filed July 26, 1994.

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a hardwired backbone network;

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a plurality of portable data terminals, each of the plurality of portable data terminals comprising:

input means for inputting data;

an RF transceiver for communicating with at least one device coupled to the backbone network via at least one of the plurality of access points[~~, the RF transceiver being configured to communicate information in packets in accordance with a carrier sense multiple access (CSMA) protocol~~];

a speaker; and

a control circuit, operatively coupled to the input means, the RF transceiver, and the speaker, for selectively enabling the RF transceiver to transmit data based on data input via the input means and to convert voice data received by the RF transceiver into a voice signal which is output through the speaker.

26. (new) The portable data collection network of claim 23, wherein the RF transceiver is configured to communicate information in packets in accordance with a carrier sense multiple access (CSMA) protocol.

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36. (new) The portable data collection network of claim 35, wherein the voice data from the first of the portable data terminals is transmitted to a first of the access points and the second of the portable data terminals receives the voice data transmitted by the first of the portable data terminals via a second of the access points.

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